

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 12, 2009 which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Entry of the present amendment and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14, 16-17, 19 and 23 are pending in this application, where claims 21-22 have been currently canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 7 and 9 are independent.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claim 21 contains patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1, 7 and 9 have been amended to include the features of allowable claim 21 which has been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 7 and 9 are allowable. In addition, claims 2-6, 8, 10-14, 16-17, 19 and 23 are allowable at least based on their

dependence from independent claims 1, 7 and 9.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Patent

Serial No. 10/536,841

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of November 12, 2009

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 4, 2010

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